

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /020 W

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R 071433Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2043

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRANCIS NOEL-BAKER TO CYPRUS AND TURKEY

REF: ATHENS 73 (CORRECTED)

1. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY FRANCIS NOEL-BAKER, FORMER BRITISH LABOR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND SON OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, PHILLIP NOEL-BAKER, THAT HE INTENDS TO VISIT NICOSIA, ANKARA AND ISTANBUL WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS. HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO CALL ON AMBASSADORS MACOMBER AND CRAWFORD FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CYPRUS PROBLEM, GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, ETC. AND WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CALL ON CONSUL GENERAL MACE IN ISTANBUL. HE REQUESTED DCM STEARNS, WHO HAS KNOWN HIM FOR MANY YEARS, TO PROVIDE HIM WITH INTRODUCTION TO EMBASSIES NICOSIA AND ANKARA AND CONGEN ISTANBUL, WHICH WE ARE DOING BY MEANS OF THIS MESSAGE. MR. NOEL-BAKER IS LEAVING ATHENS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 AND WILL ARRIVE IN NICOSIA THE SAME DAY. HE WILL CONTACT THE EMBASSY ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY, JAN. 12 OR 13, AND WILL THEN INFORM THE AMBASSADOR OF HIS ONWARD TRAVEL DATES TO ANKARA AND ISTANBUL. (PER TELECON WITH MR. NOEL-BAKER TODAY, JANUARY 7).

2. FYI: FRANCIS NOEL-BAKER HAS BEEN A MORE-OR-LESS PERMANENT RESIDENT OF GREECE SINCE HIS RESIGNATION FROM PARLIAMENT IN 1969. HE HAS A LARGE ESTATE ON THE ISLAND  
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OF EUBOEIA WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE NOEL-BAKER FAMILY SINCE

THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY. DUE IN PART TO THE VIEW HELD BY A NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL GREEKS THAT FRANCIS ENJOYED TOO COZY A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GREEK MILITARY JUNTA, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING MEASURES TO EXPROPRIATE HIS ESTATE (WITH COMPENSATION). FRANCIS HIMSELF IS A WELL-INTENTIONED ACTIVIST WHO OVER MANY YEARS HAS ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS WITH EMBASSY ATHENS. WHILE HE WAS STILL ACTIVE IN BRITISH POLITICS, HE PLAYED A BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS LEADING UP TO THE LONDON-ZURICH ACCORDS IN 1960 AND WAS AT THAT TIME REASONABLY CLOSE TO ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS. WE DO NOT KNOW THE PRESENT STATUS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP BUT SUSPECT THAT IT HAS COOLED APPRECIABLY IN VIEW OF FRANCIS' SUPPOSED CORDIALITY TOWARD THE JUNTA. IN ANY EVENT, WE SEE NO HARM AND SOME POSSIBLE GAIN IN HAVING CONTACT WITH NOEL-BKER IN NICOSIA AND ANKARA AND ISTANBUL. HE KNOWS GREECE WELL, IS FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THE HISTORICAL INS AND OUTS OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, AND WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT, WE BELIEVE SEEK TO EXPLOIT SUCH CONTACTS TO THE DIS-ADVANTAGE OF EITHER EMBASSY. END FYI.

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